

Shellfish/Seaweed Rules

1 Read:

The general information below.

2 Choose:

The Shellfish/Seaweed species you are going to harvest and read those rules.

3 Before Harvesting clams, mussels or oysters:

Check the Public Beach List to determine if a beach is open, has special rules or if there are health restrictions.

4 Marine Toxin Levels can change rapidly:

Contact the Department of Health Marine Biotoxin Hotline 1-800-562-5632 or check the Internet www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/sf/biotoxin.htm. Do not harvest in any area listed as closed on the Biotoxin Hotline, also avoid taking other shellfish which eat clams (such as moon snails or hairy tritons).

NOTE: Emergency rules may occur throughout the year and will supersede the rules contained in this pamphlet. Changes can be found by contacting the WDFW Fishing Hotline, the Shellfish Rule Change Hotline, statewide customer service, and are also available on the WDFW website. (See contact information on page 5.)

Safe Handling Practices

- Water color does not indicate shellfish safety.
- Rinse your catch in salt (not fresh) water. Quickly cool your catch on ice or in a refrigerator and cook as soon as possible.
- Wash all seaweed before eating.
- Cook shellfish adequately before eating. This does not destroy biotoxins, but can help prevent illness caused by naturally occurring bacteria or bacteria caused by pollution.
- Cooking, rinsing, or freezing does not destroy biotoxins. CRAB can also concentrate biotoxins in their internal organs. Clean crabs before cooking. Eat only the meat. Eating shellfish with high concentrations of biotoxins may cause illness or death!

Shellfish Enhancement

Some beaches have increased harvest opportunity as a result of WDFW enhancement activities. If a beach is open for CLAMS, MUSSELS or OYSTERS, harvest is encouraged within these areas, which are marked with signs attached to yellow posts (see Intertidal Enhancement below Beach List on page 121).

Possession Limit

One daily limit in fresh form. Additional shellfish may be possessed in frozen or processed form.

Marine Toxins & Pollution

SHELLFISH or SEAWEED may be contaminated from exposure to bacteria, biotoxins, viruses, or chemicals. Consumption of contaminated SHELLFISH or SEAWEED can pose a health risk to humans. Two potential biotoxins are Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) also called "red tide" and Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP). PSP becomes a problem when clams, oysters, scallops, mussels, or other shellfish consume and concentrate a microscopic algae which contains a potentially lethal biotoxin. Symptoms include numbness of the tongue and lips and tingling in the extremities and fingertips. This may be followed by loss of muscular control and difficulty in breathing. Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP) results when shellfish concentrate a different biotoxin called domoic acid. Symptoms of ASP include abdominal cramps, diarrhea, vomiting, disorientation, dizziness, and memory loss. If any of these symptoms occur after eating shellfish, get immediate medical attention. See DOH advisory, page 22.

License

A Shellfish/Seaweed License is required for all SHELLFISH (except crawfish) and SEAWEED harvest and must be displayed on the outside of clothing during shellfish harvest and transport. A license is not required for unclassified marine invertebrates even though daily limits exist. A catch record card is required to fish for Dungeness crab. (See License Requirements, pages 10-11). Everyone claiming catch must actively participate in the harvesting unless they possess a designated harvester card.

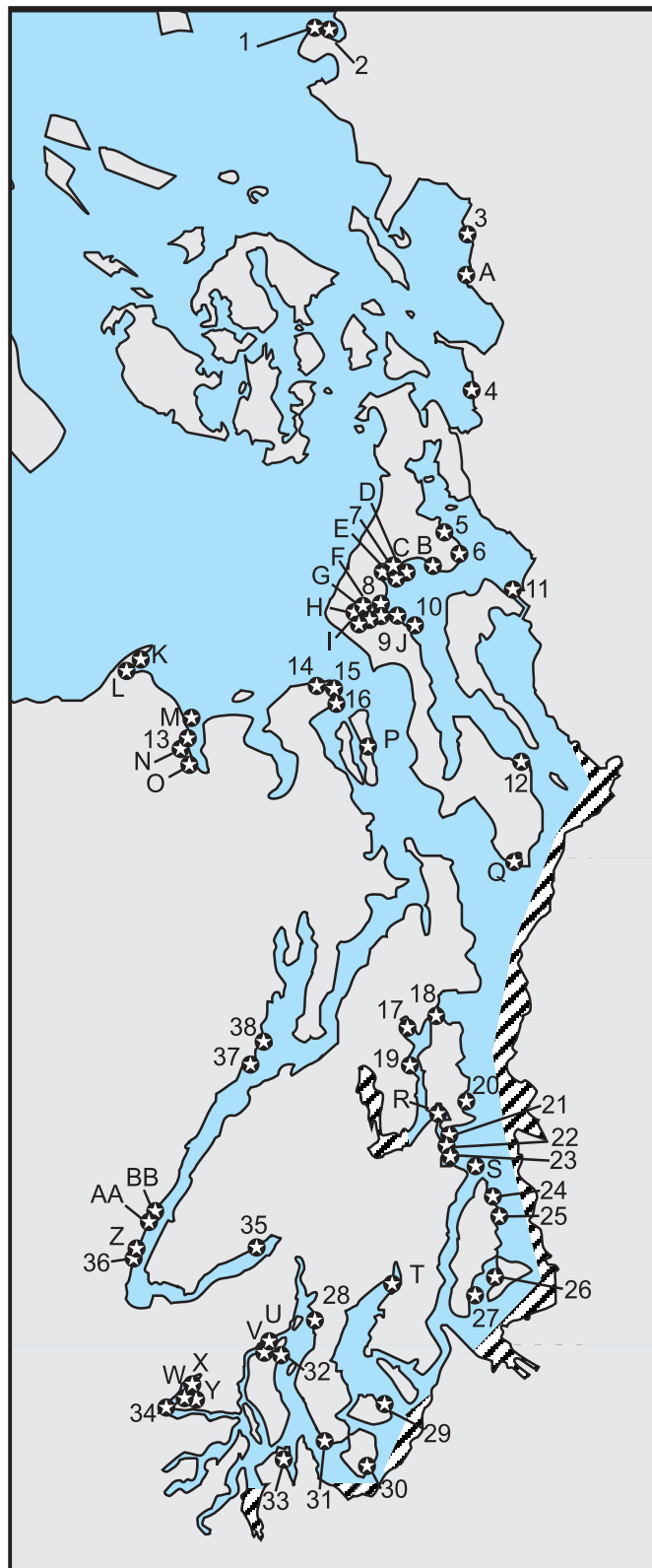
Tideland Ownership

Most Puget Sound, Hood Canal, Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay beaches are privately owned. SHELLFISH/SEAWEED may not be taken from private beaches without the owner's or lessee's permission. When harvesting from public beaches, remain within the public beach boundaries. Private tideland owners and lessees, and members of their immediate family (grandparents, parents, spouse, siblings, children, and grandchildren) are exempt from personal use daily limits and shellfish licenses when taking CLAMS, OYSTERS, and MUSSELS harvested for their own personal use from their own tidelands. Daily limits apply for all other shellfish, all other people, and all other beaches. Everyone harvesting shellfish in excess of the daily limit for presumed commercial purposes needs a shellfish certification from the Department of Health (see RCW 69.30.010(8)). Tideland owners should contact Fish and Wildlife Enforcement or the Department of Health for specific rules.

For all Shellfish Species, see Marine Area maps for closures pertaining to the following areas: San Juan Islands Marine Preserve (Area 7); Edmonds Public Fishing Pier, Brackett's Landing Shoreline Sanctuary, Keystone Conservation Area, and Admiralty Head Marine Preserve (Area 9); Elliot Bay Public Fishing Pier, Orchard Rocks Conservation Area, and Eagle Harbor (Area 10); Des Moines Fishing Pier, Les Davis Fishing Pier, Colvos Passage Marine Preserve, City of Des Moines Park, and South 239th Street Park (Area 11); Sund Rock Conservation Area, Waketickeh Creek Conservation Area and Octopus Hole Conservation Area (Area 12); and Saltar's Point Conservation Area, Titlow Beach Marine Preserve and Zees Reef Marine Preserve (Area 13).

Health Restrictions/Clams, Oysters and Mussels

Before harvesting shellfish check the PSP hotline (1-800-562-5632), on the internet <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/sf/biotoxin.htm/> or with the Department of Health at (360) 236-3350. If you need further assistance, contact the county health department.



The Department of Health (DOH) has harvest advisories on the following beaches. An advisory is placed on beaches that MAY be subject to periodic contamination from pollution sources or intersect polluted areas. Check the DOH website for details or contact the county health department prior to harvesting these beaches.

- A. Larrabee State Park (north end)
- B. WINAS Crescent Harbor
- C. WINAS-Maylor Point - E (North End)
- D. Oak Harbor County Park
- E. WINAS-Maylor Pt - W (inside Oak Harbor)
- F. East San de Fuca
- G. San de Fuca
- H. West Penn Cove (N Penn Cove)
- I. Madrona (Penn Cove)
- J. Long Point
- K. Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge
- L. Cline Spit
- M. DNR-411A
- N. North Sequim Bay State Park
- O. Sequim Bay State Park
- P. Mystery Bay State Park
- Q. Scatchet Head
- R. Point White
- S. Blake Island State Park (east side)
- T. Purdy
- U. DNR-34
- V. Jarrell Cove
- W. North Chapman Cove
- X. Northeast Chapman Cove
- Y. Southeast Chapman Cove
- Z. North Hoodsport Hatchery
- AA. South Lilliwaup
- BB. Lilliwaup State Park

DNR 426 (not shown) west of Port Angeles on the Strait of Juan de Fuca

These areas and all beaches in the following list are CLOSED by the Department of Health:

On the Strait of Juan de Fuca - Port Angeles Harbor and Port Angeles Coast Guard. All beaches within the (cross-hatched) areas.
All beaches around ferry docks.



- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Semiahmoo County Park | 20 Eagle Harbor |
| 2 Semiahmoo Marina | 21 Fort Ward State Park |
| 3 Chuckanut Bay- NE section | 22 Manchester State Park |
| 4 Bay View State Park | 23 Little Clam Bay |
| 5 DNR-144 (Sleeper) | 24 DNR-85 |
| 6 DNR-142 (Strawberry Pt.) | 25 Unnamed |
| 7 Oak Harbor Beach Park | 26 Dockton County Park |
| 8 Monroe Landing (Penn Cove Park) | 27 DNR-79 |
| 9 Coupeville | 28 DNR-18 |
| 10 Harrington Lagoon | 29 McNeil Island |
| 11 West Pass Access | 30 South Oro Bay |
| 12 Sunrise Beach (Langley Seawall) | 31 Taylor Bay |
| 13 Pitship Point | 32 South Dougall Point |
| 14 North Beach County Park | 33 Woodard Bay |
| 15 South Point Wilson | 34 Walker County Park |
| 16 North Point Hudson | 35 Belfair State Park |
| 17 Liberty Bay | 36 Hoodsport |
| 18 Suquamish (Old Man House) | 37 Pleasant Harbor State Park |
| 19 Brownsville (northside) | 38 Dosewallips SP (south end) |

Public Beach List - Special Rules

The following pages list public beaches with special rules because of resource needs and/or restrictions on harvest due to health concerns. **If a beach is not listed, it is open for recreational harvest year-round unless closed by emergency rule or marine toxins/PSP levels.** Not all public beaches have been evaluated by the State Department of Health, so the health risk of an unlisted beach may not be known. If you have questions about safety on any beach, call the local county health department or the State Health Department at (360) 236-3350. In addition, local health departments may have posted beaches within their jurisdiction that are not listed here - look for warning signs. See Marine Area maps for beach locations, marine preserves and conservation areas.

Specific Closures

For all Shellfish Species, see Marine Area maps for closures pertaining to the following areas: San Juan Islands Marine Preserve (Area 7); Edmonds Public Fishing Pier, Brackett's Landing Shoreline Sanctuary, Keystone Conservation Area, and Admiralty Head Marine Preserve (Area 9); Elliott Bay Public Fishing Pier and Orchard Rocks Conservation Area; Des Moines Fishing Pier, Les Davis Fishing Pier, Colvos Passage Marine Preserve, City of Des Moines Park, and South 239th Street Park (Area 11); Sund Rock Conservation Area, Waketickeh Creek Conservation Area and Octopus Hole Conservation Area (Area 12); and Salter's Point Conservation Area, Titlow Beach Marine Preserve and Zees Reef Marine Preserve (Area 13).

BEACH NAME	CLAM/MUSSEL SEASON	OYSTER SEASON	ADDITIONAL RULES
Ala Spit Brown Point (DNR 57-B) Cama Beach State Park Camano Island State Park Cline Spit Cutts Island State Park	CLOSED Jan. 1-Apr. 15 CLOSED CLOSED CLOSED Jan. 1-June 15	CLOSED CLOSED	
Dabob Bay	All state-owned tidelands in Dabob Bay north of a line drawn from Camp Harmony to Lindsay's Beach are closed to clam and oyster harvest the entire year except as follows: State-owned tidelands from a row of tires at Camp Discovery south approximately 2,000' to a second row of tires and state-owned tidelands beginning approximately 3/4 mile north of Camp Harmony extending approximately 1,200' north; state-owned tidelands from markers and signs posted immediately north of the community of Lindsay's Beach north to a line immediately north of Broadspit (identified by markers and signs) are open year-round. Boat access only.		
Dosewallips State Park Duckabush	Mar. 1-May 31 Mar. 1-Dec. 31	Mar. 1-Dec. 31 Mar. 1-Dec. 31	Open only in area defined by boundary markers and posted signs. All state-owned tidelands on the west shore of Hood Canal from Quatsap Point to the south end of the Duckabush River flats.
Dungeness Spit and National Wildlife Refuge Tidelands	May 15-Sept. 30		
Eagle Creek Fort Flagler State Park	June 1-July 15 Apr. 1-May 15	Year-round	Including that portion of the spit west of the Park boundary (Rat Island).
Freeland County Park Frye Cove County Park Garrison Bay/British Camp	Jan. 1-June 30 Jan. 1-May 31		
	All tidelands of Guss Island, and all state and federally owned tidelands at British Camp (San Juan County) between the National Park Service dinghy dock and the southern park boundary, are closed to clam harvest year-round. Tidelands north of the dinghy dock to Bell Point are open year-round.		
Gertrude Island Hope Island State Park Illahee State Park Kayak Point County Park Kitsap Memorial State Park Kopachuck State Park	CLOSED Apr. 1-Apr. 30 CLOSED CLOSED May 15-June 15 June 1-July 31	May 1-June 30 May 15-July 15 Mar. 1-July 31	All tidelands closed entire year. Located in South Puget Sound. Open to harvest of mussels all year.
Mukilteo State Park Mystery Bay State Park Nahcotta Tidelands	CLOSED Oct. 1-Apr. 30 CLOSED	Oct. 1-Apr. 30 Year-round	Health closure May 1-Sept. 30. See previous page. Open only in the area defined by boundary markers and posted signs.
North Bay	All state-owned tidelands in North Bay (Case Inlet) north of a line drawn southwest from Rocky Point to the north end of Reach Island then due west to the mainland are closed to the harvest of clams and oysters year-round except state-owned tidelands on the east side of North Bay north of the power transmission line and south of the power transmission lines 1600 ft. are open year-round.		
Oak Bay County Park Oyster Reserves, state-owned	June 1-June 15		State-owned oyster reserves are closed to the harvest of clams and oysters except - Case Inlet: State-owned tidelands on the east side of North Bay north of the power transmission lines and south 1600 feet from the power lines crossing the bay are open. Oakland Bay: State-owned tidelands on the north and northeast shore of the Bayshore Peninsula between state markers are open to clam and oyster harvest year-round. Willapa Bay: Diamond Point on the northwest side of Long Island between reserve monuments 39-41, and Pinnacle Rock on the southwest side of Long Island between reserve monuments 58-59 are open year-round to clams and oysters.

Public Beach List - Special Rules

BEACH NAME	CLAM/MUSSEL SEASON	OYSTER SEASON	ADDITIONAL RULES
Pacific Ocean beaches	Nov. 1-Mar. 31	Nov. 1-Mar. 31	Closed Apr. 1-Oct. 31 (unless listed otherwise) because of PSP (except razor clams).
Penrose Point State Park	Apr. 1-Apr. 30	Apr. 1-Apr. 30	All tidelands closed entire year.
Pitt Island	CLOSED		
Point Whitney Lagoon	May 1-May 15	Year-round	Excluding Point Whitney Lagoon.
Point Whitney Tidelands	Apr. 1-Apr. 30	Year-round	See Marine Area 9 map, page 106.
Port Townsend Ship Canal/Portage Canal	Jan. 1-Apr. 30		
Potlatch DNR Tidelands	CLOSED		
Potlatch East	CLOSED	Apr. 1-June 30	
Potlatch State Park	CLOSED	Apr. 1-June 30	
Purdy Spit County Park	CLOSED		Southern shore of the spit, from the boat ramp east to the bridge is closed.
Quilcene Bay WDFW Tidelands	Apr. 1-Dec. 31	Apr. 1-Dec. 31	All state-owned tidelands in Quilcene Bay north of a line drawn from the Quilcene Boat Haven to Fisherman's Point are closed, except those state owned tidelands on the west side of the bay, north of the Quilcene Boat Haven are open Apr. 1- Dec. 31. Open from official sunrise to official sunset. Clam min. size 1-1/4".
Rendsland Creek	Jan. 1-May 31	Year-round	
Scenic Beach State Park	Apr. 16-June 15	Apr. 16-July 30	
Sequim Bay State Park	May 1-June 15		Health closure Sept. 1-Sept. 15 from the wooden bulkhead south of the boat launch south to the park boundary. See ** below.
Shine Tidelands State Park	Jan. 1-May 15		East of a line from Browns Point to Swinomish Slough entrance: Bonus limit: 20 lbs. of eastern softshell clams in the shell in addition to regular hardshell/softshell clam limit. (Health restriction at Jensen access.)
Skagit Bay	Year-round		And adjacent tidelands.
South Indian Island	CLOSED	Year-round	No natural production of oysters.
County Park			
Spencer Spit State Park	Mar. 1-July 31	Year-round	
Triton Cove Tidelands	July 15-Sept. 15	Year-round	
Triton Cove State Park	Apr. 1-June 30	Apr. 1-June 30	
Twanoh State Park	CLOSED	Year-round	See Marine Area 12 map, page 114.
West Dewatto (DNR 44A)	Jan. 1-May 31	Year-round	Bonus limit: 24 cockles in addition to the regular hardshell/softshell clam limit.
Willapa Bay	Year-round	Year-round	See Oyster Reserves, state-owned and Nahcotta Tidelands.
WINAS-Maylor Point - East	National security concerns control access. Contact John Phillips, Naval Air Station (360) 257-8873 or (360) 257-1009 for information on access requirements.		
Wolfe Property State Park	Jan. 1-May 15	Jan. 1-May 15	From 7 Sisters Rd. north to the spit connecting Hood Head to the mainland.

** State Department of Health may recommend periods of no harvest of CLAMS, OYSTERS and MUSSELS due to pollution—contact the local health department in the county in which the beach is located or the Department of Health at (360) 236-3350 before harvesting.

Intertidal Shellfish Enhancement Program

FOR
PUBLIC USE

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PT. WHITNEY
SHELLFISH LAB
ENHANCEMENT PROJECT
1000 PT. WHITNEY ROAD
BRINNON, WA 98320
1-360-796-4601

WDFW shellfish program has planted several public beaches with oysters, clams and geoducks to increase harvest opportunity. The planted areas are identified on the beach by yellow colored fiberglass posts bearing signs as pictured at the left. When the beach is open, harvest is encouraged within the areas marked by these posts. The following planted beaches should provide good opportunity for the listed shellfish:

DNR 24 - Oysters
DNR 44A West Dewatto - Oysters
Eagle Creek - Oysters
Freeland CP - Clams
Frye Cove CP - Oysters
Illahee SP - Oysters
Kopachuck SP - Oysters/Geoducks

Mystery Bay SP - Oysters
North Bay Reserves East - Oysters
Penn Cove Tidelands - Oysters
Penrose SP - Oysters
Point Whitney Lagoon - Clams
Point Whitney Tidelands - Clams
Potlatch SP - Oysters

Potlatch East SP - Oysters
Rendsland Creek - Oysters
Sequim Bay SP - Oysters/Geoducks
Shine Tidelands SP - Clams/Geoducks
Tolmie SP - Oysters/Geoducks
Twanoh SP - Oysters
Wolfe Property SP - Oysters

Common Intertidal Shellfish

Pacific Razor Clam

Siliqua patula

Grows to 6"; fragile, thin elongated shells are covered with shiny, tan laquer-like skin coating the shell. Found only on Pacific coastal beaches.

OCEAN RAZOR CLAM BEACH DESCRIPTIONS

Long Beach: from North Head to Leadbetter Point (includes Seaview, Cranberry, Klipsan, Ocean Park and Oysterville).

Twin Harbors: Cape Shoalwater to the Grays Harbor South Jetty (includes North Cove, Grayland, and Westport).

Copalis: Grays Harbor North Jetty to the Copalis River (includes Ocean Shores, Oyhut, Ocean City, and Copalis).

Mocrocks: Copalis River to the southern boundary of the Quinault Indian Nation (includes Iron Springs, Roosevelt, Pacific Beach, and Moclips).

Kalaloch: Olympic National Park South Beach Campground to Brown's Point (just south of Olympic National Park Beach Trail #3).

PERMANENT RAZOR CLAM RESERVE CLOSURES

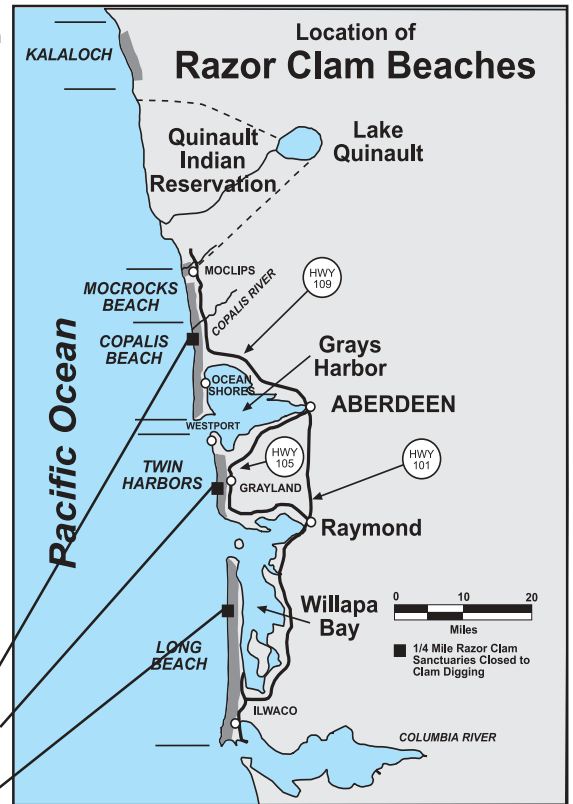
(Areas marked with posts and signs)

Razor clam sanctuaries (Reserves) are 1/4 mile sections of coastal ocean beaches located on three beach areas that are used to assist in the management of the razor clam resource. The three areas are marked with metal posts and are signed to designate a "no digging" area. The three areas are:

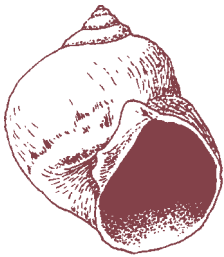
Copalis Beach Reserve - from a point 4/10 of a mile south of the Ocean City approach (2nd Ave.) and extending south for 1/4 mile.

Twin Harbors Reserve - from the middle of the County Line Road approach south for 1/4 mile.

Long Beach Reserve - beginning 2.7 miles north of the Oysterville approach and extending north for 1/4 mile.



Selected Unclassified Marine Invertebrates



Moon Snail

The Moon Snail inhabits clean sandy beaches protected from heavy surf, and fairly protected beaches where the sand is mixed with mud, from intertidal to deep water. It is one of the largest snails on our coast. Its light brown shell is about 4 3/4" in height and made up almost entirely of one great whorl.



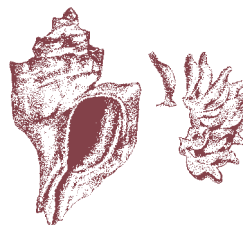
Sea Lemon Nudibranch

Common in the low intertidal zone on moist rocks, in tidepools, and on pilings. This is one of the largest and most conspicuous nudibranchs, usually 2 1/2" long. Sea Lemons are bright yellow or orange in color with black, peppery dots. They have horn-like antennae at the front end and feathery gills near the rear end.



Opalescent Nudibranch

Found in a variety of habitats; on rocky shores among seaweeds, in eelgrass beds, dock pilings, mud flats, and in kelp. This beautiful nudibranch is white with orange or red streaks, and a blue line, like a neon light, decorates each side. Generally about 1 1/2" long.



Oyster Drill Snail and Egg Case

The shell is about 1 1/2" with ornate ridges commonly attached to clam and oyster shells. Egg cases are yellow to reddish. A voracious predator of marine bivalves. Do not transport from one beach to another.

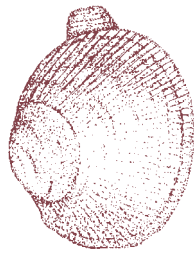
Common Intertidal Shellfish

These four species have a 1 1/2" minimum size limit, unless otherwise noted on the public beach list.



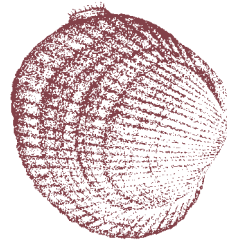
Manila littleneck clam
Tapes philippinarum

Average size is 1-2", up to 2 1/2". Oblong shell has concentric and radiating lines. May have colored, patterned shells. Siphon tips are split. Found to 4" below surface.



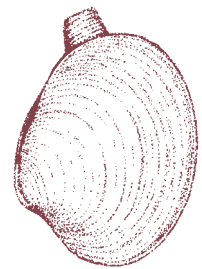
Native littleneck clam
Protothaca staminea

Average size is 1-2", up to 2 1/2". Rounded shell has concentric and radiating lines. Found 6-10" below surface.



Cockle clam
Clinocardium nuttallii

Prominent, evenly-spaced ridges which fan out from the hinge. Mottled, light brown. Can grow to 5". Found just below surface.



Butter clam
Saxidomus giganteus

Average size is 3-4", up to 6". Shells are usually chalky-white with no radiating ridges. The siphon can be pulled into its shell. Usually found 12-18" below surface.

(Not to scale)

Geoduck clam
Panopea abrupta

Heavy, oblong shell, rounded at one end. Appears cut-off at the other. The siphon can't be retracted. Found 2-3 feet below surface. Can weigh up to 10 lbs.



Horse clam
Tresus capax (shown)
Tresus nuttallii (not shown)

Large, can be up to 8". Shell is chalky-white with yellow-brown patches of "skin". The siphon can't be pulled into shell and has a leather-like flap on the tip. Found 1-2 feet below surface.



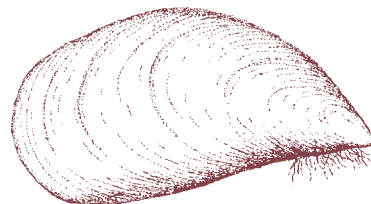
(Eastern) Softshell clam
Mya arenaria

Can grow to 6". Shells are soft, chalky-white with a rough irregular surface. Shell is rounded at the foot end, pointed at the siphon end. Found to 18" below surface.



Pacific oyster
Crassostrea gigas

Irregular, chalky-white shell. Often found in groups attached to one another or a solid object.



Mussel
Mytilus trossulus (shown)
Mytilus galloprovincialis (not shown)

Grows to 3-6". Oblong, blue-black or brown shells. Attaches to solid objects by fine threads.

Shellfish/Seaweed Species Rules

AREA	SPECIES	SEASON	ADDITIONAL RULES
ABALONE			
ALL AREAS	PINTO	CLOSED	Surveys show a continued decline in numbers of all size abalone. The closure is necessary to allow regeneration of stocks.
CLAMS, HARDSHELL AND SOFTSHELL Call Marine Biotoxins Hotline before harvesting: 1-800-562-5632.			
Clams can be dug by hand or hand-operated fork, pick, rake, or shovel. Each digger must use a separate container. Digging equipment may be shared. Clam holes must be refilled. To reduce clam mortality, please push any undersized clams into the refilled hole.			
SALTWATER PUBLIC BEACHES	GEODUCKS	Year-round except as noted on the Beach List ↓	No min. size. Daily limit first 3 dug. Do not attempt to capture a geoduck by thrusting any instrument through its neck. It is unlawful to possess only the neck of a geoduck.
SALTWATER PUBLIC BEACHES	HORSE CLAMS ALL SPECIES		No min. size. Daily limit first 7 dug. Daily limit 40 clams OR 10 lbs. in the shell, whichever comes first, all species combined. For species with a minimum size, measure across longest distance of shell.
	NATIVE LITTLENECK MANILAS BUTTERS COCKLES		Min. size 1 1/2". Min. size 1 1/2". Min. size 1 1/2". Min. size 1 1/2".
	EASTERN SOFTSHELLS MACOMAS ALL OTHER NATIVE MARINE CLAMS		No min. size. Must be retained regardless of size or condition. No min. size. No min. size.
	Bonus limits: See Willapa Bay and Skagit Bay on Beach List, page 121.		
ALL FRESH WATER AREAS	ALL SPECIES	CLOSED	
RAZOR CLAMS			
COASTAL BEACHES	ALL SPECIES	TO BE ANNOUNCED	No min. size. Daily limit first 15 dug regardless of size or condition. Each limit must be in a separate container.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May only be taken by hand, hand-operated shovel, or tube with a minimum outside diameter of 4" (4" x 3" if elliptical). All clams dug are part of digger's limit - you may not return any razor clams to the beach or water. It is illegal to drive any vehicle, land an airplane, or lead or ride a horse on razor clam beds (westerly of a line 150 feet waterward of the extreme upper limit of the hard sand area). Pressure from weight of vehicles and digging action of horses' hooves cause clam mortality. The person with a disability for whom razor clams are being dug must be in line of sight of the designated harvester or within 1/4 mile of the digging site. Both the digger and the person with a disability must be licensed. 			
CRAB See following pages for crab harvest and gear rules.			
CRAWFISH			
ALL WATERS	CRAWFISH	1st Mon. in May-Oct. 31	Min. size 3-1/4" from tip of rostrum (nose)- to tip of tail. Daily limit 10 lbs in shell. All females with eggs or young attached must be immediately returned to the water unharmed. No Shellfish/Seaweed license is required. See gear rules.
GOOSE BARNACLES Call Marine Biotoxins Hotline before harvesting: 1-800-562-5632.			
PUGET SOUND PUBLIC BEACHES		Year-round	No min. size. Daily limit 10 lbs whole or 5 lbs. barnacle stalks
PACIFIC OCEAN BEACHES (outside Olympic National Park)		Nov. 1-Mar. 31	No min. size. Daily limit 10 lbs. whole or 5 lbs. barnacle stalks.
MUSSELS Call Marine Biotoxins Hotline before harvesting: 1-800-562-5632.			
PUGET SOUND PUBLIC BEACHES	ALL SPECIES	Year-round except as noted on the Beach List.	No min. size. Daily limit 10 lbs. in shell.
PACIFIC OCEAN BEACHES (outside Olympic National Park)	ALL SPECIES	Nov. 1-Mar. 31	No min. size. Daily limit 10 lbs. in shell.
ALL FRESH WATER AREAS	ALL SPECIES	CLOSED	

Shellfish/Seaweed Species Rules

AREA	SPECIES	SEASON	ADDITIONAL RULES
OCTOPUS Octopus must be caught with hands or instrument which does not penetrate the octopus, except that octopus taken while angling with hook and line may be retained.			
MARINE AREAS 1-13	GIANT PACIFIC	Year-round	No min. size. Daily limit 1. NO CHEMICALS OR IRRITANTS ALLOWED.
OYSTERS Call Marine Biotoxins Hotline before harvesting: 1-800-562-5632. It is illegal to take oysters in water deeper than two feet. Oysters consumed on the beach count toward a limit. Oysters may only be harvested by hand or with a hand-held manually operated prying tool (no hammers, etc.). Each harvester must use a separate container.			
PUGET SOUND PUBLIC BEACHES		Year-round except as noted on the Public Beach List	Min. size 2 1/2". Daily limit 18, shucked. Oysters must be shucked on the beach. Leave shells on the same tideland and tide height where they were taken.
SAND SHRIMP			
PUBLIC BEACHES	ALL SPECIES	Year-round	No min. size. Daily limit 10 dozen. Take by hand or hand-operated suction devices.
SCALLOPS Call Marine Biotoxins Hotline before harvesting: 1-800-562-5632.			
ALL WATERS	PINK AND SPINY	Year-round	No min. size. Daily limit 5 qts. or 10 lbs. in shell combined limit for both species. May be harvested only by hand or with a hand-held manually operated prying tool.
	WEATHERVANE ROCK	Year-round Year-round	Min. size 4". Daily limit 12. Measure across longest distance of the shell. No min. size. Daily limit 12. Hammers or mallets may not be used to harvest rock scallops.
SEA CUCUMBERS Call Marine Biotoxins Hotline before harvesting: 1-800-562-5632.			
ALL WATERS	CALIFORNIA AND RED	Year-round	No min. size. Daily limit 25 total of both species. See Eagle Harbor Advisory on page 22. All other sea cucumbers: see unclassified marine invertebrates.
SEA URCHINS			
ALL WATERS	GREEN PURPLE RED	Year-round Year-round Year-round	No min. size. Daily limit 36. No min. size. Daily limit 18. No min. size. Daily limit 18.
SEAWEED All state park beaches are closed to SEAWEEED harvest except Fort Flagler, Fort Ebey, and Fort Worden State Parks which are open to SEAWEEED harvest from Apr. 16-May 15 only. Titlow Beach Marine Preserve closed to all harvest. (See Marine Area 13 map, page 116.)			
ALL AREAS	ALL SPECIES	Year-round	No min. size. Daily limit 10 lbs. wet weight. Illegal to harvest any seaweed if herring eggs are attached.
SHRIMP See following pages for shrimp harvest and gear rules.			
SQUID			
ALL WATERS	ALL SPECIES	Year-round	No min. size. Daily limit 5 qts. or 10 lbs. Legal gear is a forage fish jig, a maximum of 4 squid lures, forage fish dip net or a hand dip net. Each harvester must have a separate container.
UNCLASSIFIED MARINE INVERTEBRATES Each harvester must have a separate container. Possession limit is one daily limit. No shellfish/seaweed license required. Call Marine Biotoxins Hotline before harvesting: 1-800-562-5632. No harvest in State Parks.			
ALL AREAS	MOON SNAILS NUDIBRANCHS ALL OTHERS (starfish, sand dollars, shore crabs, graceful crabs, snails, etc.)	Year-round Year-round Year-round	No min. size. Daily limit 5. No min. size. Daily limit 2. No min. size. Daily limit is total of 10.

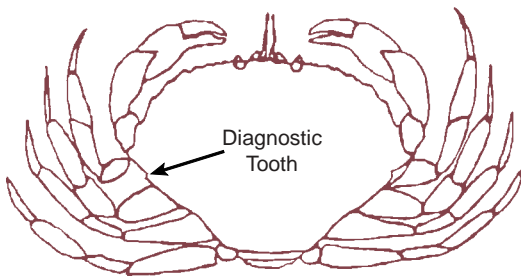
Shellfish/Seaweed Species Rules

CRAB:

May not retain Puget Sound king crab or box crab. See Possession Rules on page 118. Must release all softshell crab (underside of shell flexes with finger pressure - see below). Fishing instruments must not penetrate the shell. Catch record card required to fish for Dungeness crab.

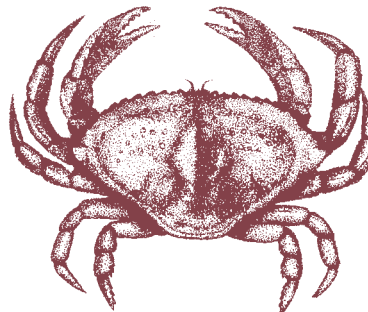
AREA	SPECIES	SEASON	ADDITIONAL RULES
PUGET SOUND (including Hood Canal) Fidalgo Bay - crabbing is prohibited at all times within 25 yards of the Burlington Northern Railroad Trestle. Padilla Bay - crab gear may only be set or pulled from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset within 25 yards of the Burlington Northern Railroad Trestles located at the north end of Swinomish Slough.			
	Dungeness Red Rock	Opening for all fishing methods dependent on allocation and crab shell condition.	Min. size 6 1/4". Daily limit 6 males. Min. size 5". Daily limit 6 either sex.
Check Shellfish Rule Change Hotline (1-866-880-5431) or website (www.wa.gov/wdfw/) before fishing.			
COLUMBIA RIVER Crab fishers may fish for crab in Oregon waters under Oregon rules and land into Washington ports of the Columbia River.			
	Dungeness Red Rock	Dec. 1-Sept. 15. Pots. Year-round. Other gear. Dec. 1-Sept. 15. Pots. Year-round. Other gear.	Min. size 5 3/4". Daily limit 12 males. Min. size 5". Daily limit 6 either sex.
PACIFIC OCEAN (Including Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay)			
	Dungeness Red Rock	Dec. 1-Sept. 15. Pots. Year-round Other gear. Dec. 1-Sept. 15. Pots. Year-round Other gear.	Min. size 6". Daily limit 6 males. Min. size 5". Daily limit 6 either sex.

Pacific Graceful Crab



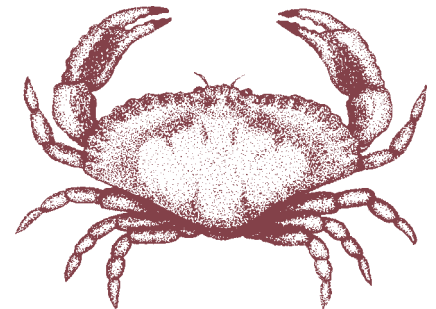
Look similar to Dungeness crabs but are small when full grown (4.5" across) and the presence of a diagnostic tooth behind the widest part of the shell.

Dungeness Crab



White-tipped claws, brownish shell

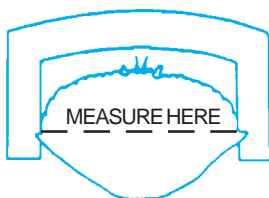
Red Rock Crab



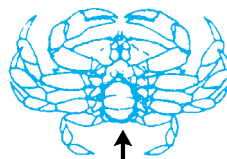
Black-tipped claws, reddish shell, shell much wider than long

Where and How to Measure for Minimum Size and Check for Shell Hardness

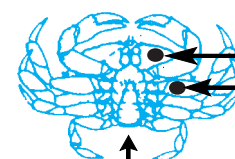
Caliper measurement at the widest part of the shell just in front of rear-most point or tips.



FEMALE
Wide
Abdomen



MALE
Narrow
Abdomen



Check for soft
shell here

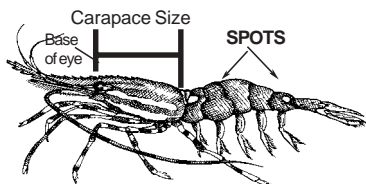
Abdomen of female and male Dungeness

Shellfish/Seaweed Species Rules

SHRIMP (Coonstripe, Humpy, Pink, Sidesripe, Spot) All areas except Hood Canal and Port Angeles Harbor require 1 3/16" minimum carapace size for spot shrimp (see diagram below). Immediately release all sublegal spot shrimp unharmed. Each harvester must have a separate container for their catch, either in their possession or identified with their name. Shrimp heads may be removed while in the field, but must be retained (except in Hood Canal) for size verification. **Allocation closures and/or depth restrictions may be required. For season closures and restrictions, before harvesting, check the Shellfish Rule change Hotline 1-866-880-5431 or the WDFW website: www.wa.gov/wdfw/.** Also see gear rules.

AREA	SPECIES	SEASON	ADDITIONAL RULES
PUGET SOUND (except Shrimp Districts below)	SPOT SHRIMP	3rd Saturday in April until quota is attained or October 15. Marine Areas 8-1, 8-2, and 9 are open Thursdays through Sundays only. Marine Area 10 is open Thursdays and Saturdays only.	Min. carapace size 1 3/16". Daily limit maximum of 80 as part of 10 lb. limit of all species combined.
	OTHER SHRIMP		No min. size. Daily limit 10 lbs. heads and tails.
DISCOVERY BAY SHRIMP DISTRICT (Marine Area 6 map, page 98).	SPOT SHRIMP	1st Saturday in June until quota is attained. Open Saturdays Only.	Min. carapace size 1 3/16". Daily limit maximum of 80 as part of 10 lb. limit of all species combined.
	OTHER SHRIMP	1st Saturday in June until quota is attained. Open daily.	No min. size. Daily limit 10 lbs. heads and tails.
HOOD CANAL SHRIMP DISTRICT (Marine Area 12 map, page 114).	ALL SPECIES	Season opens 9:00 a.m. third Saturday in May; details to be announced.	No min. size. Daily limit 80 shrimp.
PORT ANGELES SHRIMP DISTRICT (Marine Area 6 map, page 98).	SPOT SHRIMP	1st Saturday in June until quota is attained. Open Saturdays and Sundays only.	No min. carapace size. Daily limit maximum of 80 as part of 10 lb. limit of all species combined.
	OTHER SHRIMP	1st Saturday in June until quota is attained. Open Daily.	No min. size. Daily limit 10 lbs. heads and tails.
PORT TOWNSEND SHRIMP DISTRICT (Marine Area 9 map, page 106).	SPOT SHRIMP	3rd Saturday in April until quota is attained. Open Thursdays and Saturdays only.	Min. carapace size 1 3/16". Daily limit maximum of 80 as part of 10 lb. limit of all species combined.
	OTHER SHRIMP	3rd Saturday in April until quota is attained. Open Thursdays and Saturdays only.	No min. size. Daily limit 10 lbs. heads and tails.
SEQUIM BAY and CARR INLET SHRIMP DISTRICTS	ALL SPECIES	CLOSED	See Marine Area 6 map, page 98. See Marine Area 13 map, page 116.
PACIFIC OCEAN	ALL SPECIES	Year-round. Open Daily.	Min. carapace size of 1 3/16" for SPOT SHRIMP. No min. size for other shrimp. Daily limit 10 lbs. head and tails all species combined.

Spot Shrimp



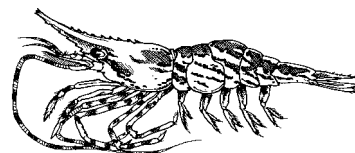
Spot shrimp (*Pandalus platyceros*) are distinguished by four white spots on the body. **All Areas, except Hood Canal and Port Angeles Harbor, have a 1 3/16" minimum carapace size limit, measured from the base of the eyestalk to the top rear edge of the carapace.** Spot shrimp may reach 10" in total length.

Pink Shrimp



Pink shrimp (*Pandalus eous* and *P. jordani*) are small (less than 6") and uniformly pink.

Coonstripe (Dock) Shrimp



Coonstripe or dock shrimp (*Pandalus danae*) are brownish in color with brown lines and spots on the head and tail. This species may grow to 5 1/2" in length.

Coonstripe (Humpback) Shrimp



The coonstripe or humpback shrimp (*Pandalus hypsinotus*) is mottled reddish-brown with some white patches on the head and tail. This species may reach 7 1/2" in length.

Statewide Gear Rules - Crab, Shrimp and Crawfish

Caution

Sportfishing rules for crab, shrimp and crawfish are subject to change based on allocation and/or soft shell conditions. Check the Shellfish Rule Change Hotline 1-866-880-5431 or watch your local media for potential changes. See individual species listings for seasons and other harvest rules.

One star trap, one ring net, or one pot is considered one unit of gear. The maximum number of units of gear that may be fished per person is:

Puget Sound except Hood Canal:	Two shrimp pots per person and no more than 4 shrimp pots may be on board or fished by any one boat. Two units of crab gear.
Hood Canal	One shrimp pot per person. No more than 4 shrimp pots may be on board or fished by any one boat. Two units of crab gear.
Coastal waters:	Two units total.
All freshwater areas:	Two units for crawfish.
Columbia River Mouth (upstream of Buoy 10 line):	Three units total.

Every shellfish pot, ring net, or star trap left unattended in Washington waters must have its own buoy line and a separate buoy that is permanently and legibly marked with the operator's first name, last name, and permanent address (telephone number is voluntary). Only one name and address may appear on a buoy. Buoy lines must be weighted sufficiently to prevent them from floating on the surface.

Buoys must be:

- Constructed of durable material (no bleach, antifreeze, or detergent bottles, paint cans, etc.).
- Visible on the surface at all times except during extreme tidal conditions.
- Half red and half white for crab (both colors should be displayed when in floating position). Yellow for shrimp. The personal marker flag and staff, if attached, may be any color.

It is illegal to pull an unattended shellfish pot, ring net, or star trap with a buoy that does not have your name on it. However, any angler may assist the person whose name is on the buoy while he or she is pulling the pot. Shrimp pots, crab pots, star traps and ring nets may not be tended from a vessel at night (one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise).

All parts of ring nets and star traps must lie flat on the sea bottom and may not restrict free movement of crab until lifted. Shellfish pots must be covered by water at all times while being fished.

All crab, shrimp, and crawfish pots must be equipped with a biodegradable device consisting of either:

- (1) securing the pot lid hook or tiedown strap with a single loop of cord; or
- (2) sewing a 3" by 5" escape panel in the upper half of pot closed with cord; or
- (3) attaching the pot lid or one pot side (serving as a pot lid) with no more than three single loops of cord.

Cord used must be untreated 100% cotton or other natural fiber no larger than thread size 120 or 1/8". This cord, when attached as described above, must be able to rot away and allow crab, shrimp, crawfish, and fish to escape freely if the pot is lost. Minimum mesh size for crab pots is 1 1/2". All crab pots must have two 4 1/4" minimum inside diameter escape rings in the upper half of the pot, except in the Columbia River, where the minimum is 4" inside diameter. Shrimp pots must not exceed 10 ft. in perimeter, maximum height 18".

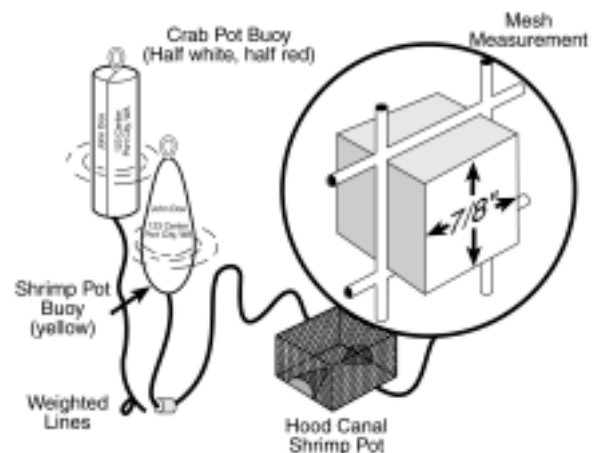
ADDITIONAL RULES FOR HOOD CANAL (Marine Area 12)

SHRIMP POT: Pots must be constructed of mesh material, except for the entrance tunnels, and must allow a 7/8" square peg to pass through each mesh without changing the shape of the mesh opening (no liners allowed). See diagram.

Tunnels must enter from the sides of the pot, and may be made of any size mesh material. The sum of the maximum tunnel widths must not exceed one-half the perimeter of the bottom of the pot.

LOST GEAR

Do not attempt to salvage lost shellfish gear from Hood Canal without first obtaining a permit from the Department of Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Program. Call (360) 902-2936.



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
FISH PROGRAM/PAMPHLET SURVEY
600 Capitol Way North • Olympia, WA 98501-1091
Telephone (360) 902-2700 Fax: (360) 902-2183

2003/2004 SPORTFISHING PAMPHLET SURVEY

Over the past year Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish Program has been reviewing and discussing options to enhance your fishing experience and improve the sportfishing pamphlet. Our goal is to present the information in the sportfishing pamphlet in a consistent manner that is easy to understand. Minor changes have been made to this edition to create consistency and make the pamphlet easier to interpret and use by the resource enthusiast. This is only the first step in the pamphlet improvement process that we are undertaking. We are asking for your assistance in helping us with the rest of this process by participating in our Sportfishing Pamphlet Survey.

Please review the four freshwater special rules layout options below and let us know which one you like best by marking the check box and returning it to the address shown above. Please feel free to submit additional layout comments or changes to the choices below with this survey.

☐ **Option A**

Use the current format as shown in this publication.

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	ADDITIONAL RULES
ABERNATHY CREEK (Cowlitz Co.) from mouth (Hwy. 4 Bridge) to Abernathy Falls	CLOSED WATERS - from posted markers 500' below salmon hatchery upstream to Abernathy Falls.		
	TROUT	June 1-Aug. 31	Min. size 14". Daily limit 2. CLOSED to fishing for STEELHEAD. Release wild CUTTHROAT.
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Aug. 31	Statewide min. size/daily limit.
	TROUT	Nov. 1-Mar. 15	Min. size 14". Daily limit 2. Release wild CUTTHROAT.
	Other Game Fish	Nov. 1-Mar. 15	Statewide min. size/daily limit.

☐ **Option B**

The option below shows the same information as mentioned above, however it is presented in a text format. This option contains the freshwater rule exceptions, and some of the statewide freshwater rules. You are still required to determine which statewide freshwater rules are not mentioned and use those along with the statewide freshwater rules. (See sample layout below.)

ABERNATHY CREEK (Cowlitz Co.) from mouth (Hwy. 4 Bridge) to Abernathy Falls.

CLOSED WATERS – from posted markers 500' below salmon hatchery upstream to Abernathy Falls.

TROUT – Open June 1 – Aug. 31, minimum size 14", daily limit 2. Release wild CUTTHROAT. CLOSED to fishing for STEELHEAD.

OTHER GAME FISH – Open June 1 – Aug. 31, statewide minimum size and daily limit.

TROUT – Open Nov. 1 - Mar. 15, minimum size 14", daily limit 2. Release wild CUTTHROAT.

OTHER GAME FISH – Open Nov. 1 – Mar. 15, statewide minimum size and daily limit.

☐ **Option C**

This option lists **only the exceptions to the statewide freshwater rules**. You still use the statewide freshwater rules and the statewide freshwater species rules, however you do **not** have to determine which rules are duplicated because **only** the exceptions are listed in this layout option. These freshwater rule exceptions override the statewide freshwater rules, and the remaining statewide freshwater rules apply. (See sample layout below.)

WESTSIDE RIVERS SPECIAL RULES

WATER	SPECIES	EXCEPTIONS TO STATEWIDE RULES
ABERNATHY CREEK (Cowlitz Co.) from mouth (Hwy. 4 Bridge) to Abernathy Falls.	CLOSED WATERS – from posted markers 500' below salmon hatchery upstream to Abernathy Falls.	
	TROUT	Open June 1 – Aug. 31. Minimum size 14". Release wild CUTTHROAT. CLOSED to fishing for STEELHEAD.
	OTHER GAME FISH	Open June 1 – Aug. 31.
	TROUT	Open Nov. 1 - Mar. 15. Minimum size 14". Release wild CUTTHROAT.
	OTHER GAME FISH	Open Nov. 1 - Mar. 15.

☐ **Option D**

Your ideas and comments.